

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03654 190820Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 W
-----056369 190824Z /15

O R 190744Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9460
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3654

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, ET, SU, SO
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLEGES US ATTEMPTING DESTABILIZE
ETHIOPIA THROUGH CIA AGENTS IN SUDAN.

REF: ADDIS 3653 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER,
MINISTRY OFFICIAL MADE ALLEGATIONS THAT TWO CIA OPERATIVES
WERE WORKING WITH EDU IN SOMALIA AND SOMALI AUTHORITIES TO
UNDERMINE PMGSE. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS "FANTASTIC"
ALLEGATION, THAT STANDARD U.S. POLICY IS NOT TO COMMENT ON
ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CIA "NO MATTER HOW ABSURD", AND THAT
POSITION OF U.S. WITH REGARD TO IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN U.S. AND ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN CLEARLY STATED BY HIM
IN MEETINGS WITH CHAIRMAN, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND WITH
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, AT ALL OF WHICH MINISTRY OFFICIAL
HAD BEEN PRESENT. AGREED REPORT MINISTER'S ALLEGATIONS TO
WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. BERHANE DERESSA, HEAD OF AMERICAS DIVISION OF MOFA,
FIRST CALLED AMBASSADOR TO COME TO FOREIGN OFFICE SATURDAY
MORNING AUGUST 19 TO RECEIVE MESSAGE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER.
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THIS CHANGED AT 5 PM AUGUST 18 TO REQUEST TO APPEAR AT 5:30
PM THAT AFTERNOON. BERHANE OPENED BY STATING OFF THE RECORD
THAT HE DID NOT SEE WHY THERE WAS SUCH URGENCY IN INFORMING
AMBASSADOR OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY, BUT HE HAD HIS INSTRUCTIONS
FROM HIS MINISTER.

2. BERHANE SAID PMGSE HAD EVIDENCE THAT TWO AMERICAN CIA

AGENTS, ONE OF WHOM HAD MADE REPEATED TRIPS FROM MOGADISCIO TO KHARTOUM, AND BOTH OF WHOM WERE OPERATING OUT OF SUDAN WERE WORKING WITH EDU AND SOMALI AUTHORITIES TO UNDERMINE AND SUBVERT PMGSE.

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE "FANTASTIC" AND THAT THE STANDARD US GOVERNMENT PRACTICE WAS NOT TO COMMENT ON ANY ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE CIA "NO MATTER HOW ABSURD". IN ANY CASE, AMBASSADOR HAD NO KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING ANY SUCH PERSONS, WHO, EVEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ALLEGATION CONCEDED, LIVED OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA. DID BERHANE HAVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS NAMES OR INCIDENTS AND DATES? BERHANE REPLIED HE WAS NOT INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE ANY BUT WOULD REPORT QUERY TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. AMBASSADOR CONTINUED THAT THE U.S. POLICY WAS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PMGSE AND THE U.S. AND THIS POLICY HAD BEEN CLEARLY STATED BY HIM IN SEPARATE MEETINGS SINCE HIS ARRIVAL WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, CHAIRMAN, AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN THAT CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER AND THAT BERHANE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT ALL OF THEM. THIS HE ACKNOWLEDGED.

4. BERHANE ASKED WHETHER AMBASSADOR'S REPLY MEANT HE WOULD NOT CONVEY FOREIGN MINISTER'S POINTS TO WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD, OF COURSE, ALWAYS DO THE MINISTER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COURTESY OF CONVEYING HIS VIEWS TO THE DEPARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PEPR, US, ET, SU, SO, CIA, (BERHANE DERESSA)
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